DC

7

HARLEY QUINN

FEAR STATE

PHILLIPS
ROSSMO
PLASCENCIA

IT'S GOOD TO *RECONNECT* WITH NATURE.

AGES 13+
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An impersonator is haunting Gotham and murdering criminals.

CAN THE DARK KNIGHT STOP HIM AND CLEAR HIS NAME?

BATMAN THE IMPOSTER

Written by director and screenwriter
MATTSON TOMLIN

Art by Eisner Award winner
ANDREA SORRENTINO

DC BLACK LABEL

THREE PRESTIGE FORMAT ISSUES | OCTOBER

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AGES 17+

FEAR STATE

PART 1

I'M SO ***PLEASED*** YOU ALL COULD BE HERE...

...OKAY, NOT LIKE YOU HAD MUCH OF A ***CHOICE*** IN THE MATTER, BUT IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD OPENING LINE.

SO, FOR OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS...

STEPHANIE PHILLIPS WRITER **RILEY ROSSMO** ARTIST
IVAN PLASCENCIA COLORS **DERON BENNETT** LETTERS
RILEY ROSSMO COVER **DERRICK CHEW** VARIANT COVER
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR
HARLEY QUINN CREATED BY **PAUL DINI** AND **BRUCE TIMM**

BLANE.

...WE SHOW GOTHAM WHY IT SHOULD *FEAR* THE CAUCUS OF CORRUPTION!

BLANE, POLYPHONIST, SAGE SWYNE, EXCLAMATION, FELLOW FRIGID AND...AND, UM...

POLYPHONIST.

EXCLAMATION.

SAGE SWYNE.

FELLOW FRIGID.

DID I NOT GIVE YOU A NAME YET?

**** IT. I'LL CALL YOU *SWORD LADY.*

...KEEPSAKE.

AND, OF COURSE, YOUR *FEARLESS* LEADER *ME*...

WITH THE BIGGEST PLAYERS IN GOTHAM EITHER REFORMED, DEAD, IN JAIL, OR MISSING...

...IT'S HIGH TIME FOR A NEW *RULING CLASS* OF VILLAINS TO--

I'LL TRY NOT TO BE *OFFENDED* THAT I WASN'T INVITED...

...PERHAPS MY INVITE WAS *LOST* IN THE MAIL.

HUGO...YOU'RE INTERRUPTING *MY* MEETING.

THE EFFECTS OF THE DRUG SEEM TO BE AMPLIFIED BY THE AUDITORY DEVICE YOU'RE USING *EXACTLY* AS INTENDED.

STILL, WITH MORE TRIALS WE COULD BETTER PREDICT THE DURATION THAT THE SAMPLES REMAIN UNDER YOUR--

NO MORE TRIALS!

YOU'VE HAD **MONTHS** TO RUN YOUR STUPID TESTS.

YOU **PROMISED** THAT IF I STOLE THE DRUGS FROM SCARECROW, YOU'D HELP ME SECURE GOTHAM AS MY OWN.

BUT THEN **HARLEY QUINN** BROKE IN AND NEARLY DESTROYED OUR WORK...SCARECROW **THREATENED** ME...

...NO MORE **DISTRACTIONS.**

I WANT GOTHAM, AND I WANT IT **NOW.**

AND FAR BE IT FROM ME TO STAND IN YOUR WAY. I JUST CAME TO SEE HOW EXACTLY YOU WERE PLANNING TO SECURE CONTROL OF **POISON IVY.**

WELL, I WAS GOING TO--

--**POISON IVY...?**

OF COURSE! SHE'S CURRENTLY RESIDING UNDER THE CITY OF GOTHAM AND IF YOU CAN MANAGE TO CONTROL HER...

...YOU CONTROL THE **ENTIRE** CITY.

I DIDN'T... I GUESS I COULD JUST--

BUT, I'M SURE A **MASTER** VILLAIN SUCH AS YOURSELF ALREADY KNEW THIS. AND, I'M SURE YOU **ALSO** KNEW THAT THERE IS A MISSING KEY TO HELPING **CONTROL** IVY...

--

JUST LIKE I'M **SURE** YOUR PLAN WAS TO FIND THIS KEY BY USING THE PERSON...OR **CLOWN...** WHO KNOWS IVY BETTER THAN ANY-ONE ELSE...

"...HARLEY QUINN."

BREATHE...

BUZZ

DON'T THINK ABOUT HUGO AND HIS **OBVIOUS** NEED TO OVERCOMPENSATE FOR--

NO. IGNORE THE BAD THOUGHTS...

BUZZ

...LIKE HOW THERE'S THIS NEW GUY NAMED KEEPSAKE WHO'S KIDNAPPED ME...

...WHAT AN **IDIOT**...

HE'S NOT EVEN A **REAL** VILLAIN.

BUZZ

BUZZ

EVEN THE GIANT VAT OF CHEMICALS HE TRIED TO DROWN ME IN WAS JUST FOOD-COLORING AND--

DAMMIT. NO BAD THOUGHTS. **FOCUS**...

...ON PAM.

YEAH...**THAT'S** BETTER. JUST THINK ABOUT RED AND THAT THING SHE USED TO DO WITH--

BUZZ

GRRR... MOSQUITOES...

TYPICALLY, I LIKE BEIN' INSIDE MY OWN MIND.

THERE'S SOME FUN STUFF IN THERE.

...STUPID BUGS...

HRM.

BUZZZ

BUZZ

PSSSS!

HEY, KEV... WHAT'CHA THINKIN' ABOUT?

HUH?

OH...UM... NOTHING...? I GUESS I KIND OF ZONED OUT.

BUT LATELY IT'S BEEN FEELIN' A LITTLE CROWDED IN HERE. EVEN BY MY STANDARDS.

NOTHING?!

HUGO AND KEEPSAKE AND LOCKWOOD... OH MY.

QUIET!

SORRY...

IF TWO'S COMPANY...

HOW WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT **NOTHING?**

IS THAT...**BAD?** AM I DOING IT WRONG?

...THEN **THREE** VILLAINOUS CREEPS IN GOTHAM IS **DEFINITELY** A CROWD.

THIS IS SO **BORING.**

WHO PICKED ***MEDITATION*** AS AN ACTIVITY ANYWAYS?

I GOT OUTTA GOTHAM BECAUSE I WAS STARTIN' TO FEEL LIKE A GIANT WEIGHT WAS HANGIN' OVER ME...**FIGURATIVELY,** OF COURSE. NOT LIKE THAT TIME IT HAPPENED FOR REAL.

ACTUALLY...THAT HAPPENED **TWICE,** NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.

ANYWAYS, SOMETIMES IT CAN FEEL AS IF SOMETHIN' IS IN THE **WATER** IN GOTHAM. SOMETHIN' MESSIN' WITH YOUR MIND...

WE FINALLY GET A BREAK FROM GOTHAM...I DON'T WANNA JUST SIT THERE DOIN' ***NOTHING.***

BUT THIS TIME I **SWORE** GOTHAM WOULDN'T WIN.

I THINK MEDITATION IS A GREAT WAY FOR THE SUPPORT GROUP TO--

WE SHOULD GO FOR A HIKE...OR MAYBE TRY CANOEING.

DO YOU THINK IT'S TOO EARLY FOR S'MORES?

TRICK QUESTION.

IT'S **NEVER** TOO EARLY FOR S'MORES!

BUT IT TOOK **LEAVING** GOTHAM TO REALIZE THE **TRUTH...**

HAVE YOU SEEN WAFFLE?!

HAVE I SEEN ***WHAT?***

...I DON'T NEED GOTHAM TO BE A ****** PERSON.

WAFFLE!

UH... PANCAKES?

NO, MY DOG WAFFLE IS MISSING.

YOU NAMED YOUR DOG WAFFLE?

HE'S GONE! HE GOT OFF HIS LEASH, AND I CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE!

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM...

IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. WHAT KIND OF DOG IS HE?

HE'S... HE'S A PUG.

WE NEED TO FIND HIM BEFORE THE SUN GOES DOWN...

...HE'S AFRAID OF THE DARK.

MMM, WAFFLES...

DON'T WORRY. I PROMISE WE'RE GOING TO HELP YOU FIND HIM.

IF I WAS A PUG NAMED WAFFLE I'D RUN AW--

WE'LL GO DOWN THE TRAIL BY THE WATER, YOU TAKE THE PATH TOWARDS THE CLEARING.

OKAY, I WILL. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I'M SURE HE HASN'T GONE TOO FAR.

YAWN

AND, **UNFORTUNATELY,** IF I CAN'T BLAME MY PAST BEHAVIOR ON **JUST** GOTHAM CITY...

...THEN HARLEY QUINN'S GOTTA TAKE SOME RESPONSIBILITY.

WAFFLE!

COME HERE, WAFFLE!

WE'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR HOURS. CAN'T WE JUST CALL IT AND GO BACK TO CAMP ALREADY?

I WAS GONNA TRY THAT THING WHERE YOU PUT A PEANUT BUTTER CUP ON A S'MORE...

YOU CAN EAT S'MORES WHENEVER YOU WANT. THE POOR DOG IS OUT HERE BY HIMSELF.

WAFFLE!

BESIDES...YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THIS SUPPORT GROUP AND IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO GO CAMPING. DON'T YOU FEEL ANY KIND OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS?

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

NOTHING... JUST AN OBSERVATION IS ALL.

YOU HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN AROUND A LOT LATELY.

SERIOUSLY?

I'VE BEEN HELPING *BATMAN.*

YOU KNOW...BIG GUY...TIGHT BLACK LEOTARD...BAT FETISH...

...KNOWN FOR SAVING GOTHAM *ONCE* OR *TWICE*...

YEAH, BUT BETWEEN BATMAN, YOUR PERSONAL APOLOGY QUEST, STARTING A SUPPORT GROUP, *AND* TRYING TO FIND IVY...

...IT'S A LOT FOR ANY *ONE* PERSON, DON'T YOU THINK?

WOULD YOU ASK *BATMAN* IF *HE* COULD HANDLE IT ALL?

OR JOKER? WOULD YOU ASK *HIM* THESE QUESTIONS?

I'M ASKING YOU BECAUSE I CARE, NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE A *WOMAN*...

YOU DON'T ACTUALLY THINK THAT *I* THINK--?

ARF

ARF

ARF

I THINK I DON'T *KNOW* WHAT YOU THINK!

BUT I *KNOW* YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT *I* THINK!

I THINK... I HEAR A *DOG.*

DID YOU HEAR THAT, TOO?

I GOT IT, KEVIN.

ARF

IT'S JUST A PUG...

GRO

ARF

FINALLY...WE'VE BEEN LOOKIN' ALL OVER FOR YA...

RA

ARF

IT'S COMIN' FROM IN HERE. I'LL GO CHECK...UNLESS YOU THINK I CAN'T HANDLE *THIS*, TOO?

HARLEY... THAT'S NOT--

RROOOAARK

IS THAT *YOUR* STOMACH GROWLING?

WE CAN GO BACK TO CAMP AND I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE S'MORES YOU CAN POSSIBLY--

AH, SO *NOT* YOUR STOMACH, THEN? STAY CALM, WAFFLE, I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO...

...EXIT, PURSUED BY BEAR!

I KNEW MOVIN' BACK TO GOTHAM WASN'T GONNA BE A **VACATION**...

GOTHAM CITY.

...BUT IT **WOULD** BE NICE IF THE CITY WOULD STOP DESTROYIN' ITSELF FOR EVEN JUST **ONE** HOUR.

KRRSSSH!

HEY...HEY! THAT'S MY SHOP!

NOT ANYMORE, PAL.

THIS WHOLE CITY'S GONE ***WILD*** FROM SCARECROW'S TOXIN! NOTHING MATTERS! AND ANYWAYS...

...WHO'S GONNA STOP ME?

WAS THAT MEANT TO BE A ***RHETORICAL*** QUESTION?

BECAUSE I'M *AFRAID* YOU *WON'T* LIKE THE ANSWER.

WHAT...? THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...

...I HEARD BATMAN'S *DEAD!*

YOU'RE HERE! YOU'VE GOTTA HELP... THIS ENTIRE CITY...IT'S GONE...

...CRAZY?

FEAR CAN DO THAT.

WH-- WHAT ARE YOU...?

WAIT... YOU'RE NOT...

...YOU'RE NOT THE BATMAN!

KRAAK

UNGH!

GOTHAM DOESN'T NEED A **BATMAN** ANYMORE.

P-PLEASE... =KOFF= ...**YOU'RE HURTING ME!**

!

OOF!

YOU'RE... YOU'RE **INSANE!**

"DID YOU **EXPECT** THE CITY TO REACT THIS WAY...?"

...TURNING ON EACH OTHER...THE PARANOIA...?

IS THIS ALL FROM THE FEAR TOXIN, HUGO?

FOR THOSE OF US MORE ATTUNED TO THE MOODS OF GOTHAM, IT WAS A PREDICTABLE CLIMAX, CERTAINLY.

WITH THE STATE OF THINGS AFTER JOKER WAR AND A-DAY...EVERY-ONE WAS ALREADY ON THE EDGE.

ALL CRANE NEEDED TO DO WAS...PUSH.

THAT WAS THE GOAL? CHAOS?

PERHAPS. BUT I HAVE NO CONCERN FOR JONATHAN CRANE BEYOND THE OPPORTUNITY HE HAS CREATED FOR ME.

GOTHAM IS TEARING ITSELF APART...SAINT INDUSTRIES IS LOSING CONTROL...

WITH MY HELP, THE CITY WILL ONLY FEAR THE HEROES THEY HAVE LEFT...

"...AND KEEPSAKE AND HARLEY QUINN WILL LEAD ME RIGHT TO **POISON IVY**..."

AHHH!

HRRRAR!

AHHH!

KEEP RUNNING!

HRRRRAH!

HE'S GAINING ON US!

THIS WAY! I THINK WE CAN--

HUH?!

HARLEY!

KEV! I CAN'T PULL MYSELF UP WITH THE DOG...I'M TOO FAR DOWN!

HANG ON... I'LL TRY TO FIND A ROPE OR SOMETHING!

WOOF!

I'M SORRY, KEVIN. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANY OF THAT STUFF. I WAS JUST... *STRESSED.*

BECAUSE YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M DOIN' TOO MUCH. I JUST REALLY WANT TO PROVE THAT I *CAN* CHANGE...AND THEN I START THINKIN' ABOUT IVY AND...

WHNNN?

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, WAFFLE. IVY...SHE'S DIFFERENT...SHE HELPED ME BECOME A *BETTER* ME.

AND I'VE BEEN SO STRESSED ABOUT TRYIN' TO LIVE UP TO THIS EXPECTATION THAT *I* SET...LIKE IF I WAS ***GOOD*** ENOUGH, IVY'D JUST...COME BACK.

BUT... BUT I THINK I REALIZED SOMETHING, KEV...

...THERE'S MORE THAN ONE KIND OF ***LOVE.***

YOU, AND S.G., AND EVEN THE SUPPORT GROUP...

...I REALLY DO LOVE ALL OF YA.

HRNNN

MAYBE PEOPLE WHO SAY YOU CAN'T BE ***LOVED*** IF YOU DON'T LOVE YOURSELF ARE REALLY ****** ***WRONG.***

BECAUSE I'M LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE FOUND A FEW PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO LOVE ME EVEN WHEN I STRUGGLE TO.

AND MAYBE ***REAL*** LOVE, ROMANTICAL OR OTHERWISE, IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO WILL STILL TRY TO SAVE YOU FROM FALLIN' OFF A CLIFF...

...EVEN WHEN YOU'VE BEEN AN ABSOLUTE **** TO THEM.

HUH, ***VINES?!***

*I'VE WORKED HARD TO STOP BLAMING **GOTHAM** FOR MY PAST.*

BUT BEYOND THE **TYPE** OF PEOPLE GOTHAM SEEMS TO INVITE WITH **ENGRAVED STATIONERY...**

BELLA?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

...I FORGOT THAT THE CITY MAKES ME FEEL SOMETHING I REALLY HATE...

HARLEY...

...I FOUND **IVY.**

...IT MAKES ME FEEL **FEAR.**

TO BE CONTINUED.

WOOF!

ARKHAM CITY

The ORDER of the WORLD

i sEe that Gotham City is nothing more than ARKhAM set free, and soon **YOU** will see too.

WRITTEN BY
DAn WaTTeRS
ART BY DaNi

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A 6-ISSUE SERIES
OCTOBER

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

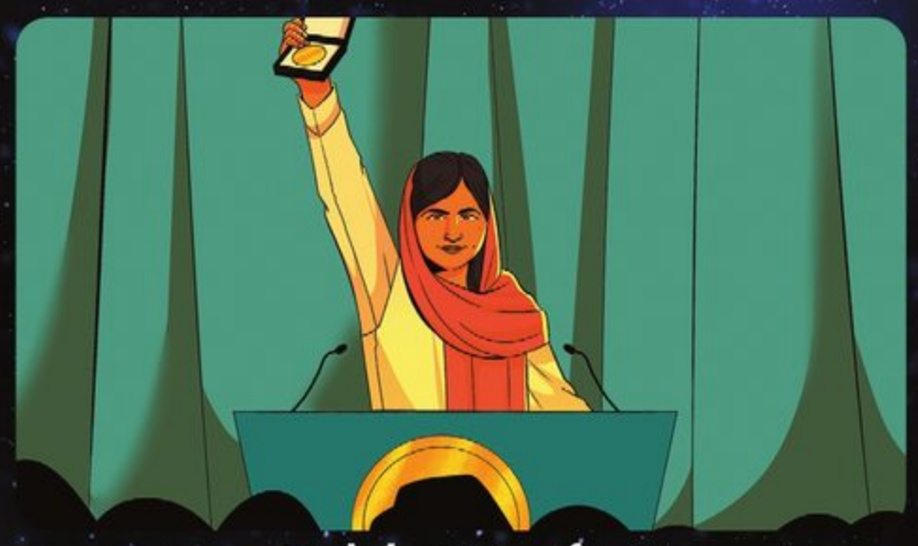
WONDERFUL WOMEN of the WORLD

Wonder Woman stands for justice, equality, and compassion, and that's exactly the spirit that fuels the profiles and portraits of 23 pioneering women from around the globe in *Wonderful Women of the World*—one of DC's many releases celebrating Wonder Woman's 80th anniversary.

New York Times bestselling author (and writer of *Wonder Woman: Tempest Tossed*) Laurie Halse Anderson has brought together an all-star lineup of creators to celebrate real-life heroes in this new DC graphic novel for young adults. Here's a preview of just a few of those stories.

Serena Williams
by Danielle Paige and Brittney Williams

Greta Thunberg
by Kami Garcia and Igzell



Malala Yousafzai
by Son M. and Safiya Zerrougui

Ellen Ochoa
by Cecil Castellucci and Carina Guevara

DON'T MISS
WONDERFUL WOMEN OF THE WORLD
IN STORES NOW!

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